CLAIMS:

1. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition, comprising administering to the subject a combination of an effective amount of methotrexate (MTX) and an effective amount of an agonist of the A_3 adenosine receptor (A_3AR agonist).

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein MTX is administered to the subject once weekly.

3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the A_3AR agonist is administered to subjects between once and a few times a day.

4. A method according to any one of Claim 1 to 3, wherein the A_3AR agonist is given to the subject orally.

5. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.

6. A method according to any one of Claims 3 to 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is less than 4 mg.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.

9. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

10. A method according to Claim 10, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA.

12. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and treated with MTX, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an A_3AR agonist.

13. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and indicated for treatment with an A_3AR agonist, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of MTX.

14. A method according to Claim 12 or 13, wherein the A_3AR agonist is administered to the subject between once and a few times a day.

15. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, wherein the A_3AR agonist is given to the subject orally.

16. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 15, wherein the A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.

17. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 16, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is less than 4 mg.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.01 to about 2 mg.

19. A method according to Claim 18, wherein a daily dosage of said A_3AR agonist is within the range of about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg.

20. A method according to any one of Claims 12 to 19, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

21. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

22. Use of an A_3AR agonist for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX.

23. Use of MTX for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a subject having an inflammatory condition and being treated with an A_3AR agonist.

24. Use according to Claim 22 or 23, wherein said inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

25. Use according to Claim 14, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

26. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of A_3AR agonist.

27. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26, comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier for oral delivery of said A_3AR agonist.

28. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 26 or 27, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA or Cl-IB-MECA.

29. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

30. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising less than 4 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

31. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.01 to about 2 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

32. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 28, comprising between about 0.1 to about 1.5 mg of said A_3AR agonist.

33. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a patient having an inflammatory condition and being treated with MTX, comprising an effective amount of an A3AR agonist.

34. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of Claims 26 to 33, wherein the inflammatory condition is an autoimmune disorder.

35. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 34, wherein said autoimmune disorder is rheumatoid arthritis.

36. A pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 35, wherein said A_3AR agonist is IB-MECA.